

10 March 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR: EXECUTIVE

FROM: Assistant Director, OCD

SUBJECT: Standardization of Place Names

REFERENCE: (a) AD/ORE memo to all AD's, subject as
above, dated 7 February 1950

(b) AD/ORE memo to Executive, subject as
above, dated 10 March 1950

1. This Office concurred in reference (a), but does not concur in the proposal for implementing action contained in reference (b).

2. The new wording proposed for paragraph 2 of [] goes considerably beyond the recommendation in which the several Assistant Directors concurred. The clause to which OCD objects is underlined in the following quotation from reference (b):

50X1
50X1

"Transliteration of Chinese will be by the Wade-Giles system, except that conventional place names approved by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (furnished as Enclosure G hereto) will always be used and the corresponding literal Wade-Giles spelling will be avoided."

3. This Office recommends the following:

"Transliteration of Chinese will be by the Wade-Giles system, except that conventional place names approved by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (furnished as Enclosure G hereto) will always be used. If used at all, the corresponding literal Wade-Giles spelling will be enclosed in parentheses following the conventional spelling, thus: Chefoo (Yen-t'ai)."

4. The fact is that it is very often desirable to use both names in the manner shown above. No unilateral action by CIA is going to have any appreciable effect on many of the sources of information which

we must use, and it therefore follows that a part of the information which we receive will follow Wade-Giles and a part will use conventional spellings. Hence analysts, especially in the biographic and industrial areas of intelligence work, will generally find it desirable to pinpoint their data by using both spellings. (In fact, my people wished me to dissent from ORE's original proposition, and to insist that both spellings always be used. I pointed out to them that finished intelligence productions, particularly such current papers as the CIA Daily and Weekly which are designed to be read by customers who never heard of Wade-Giles (and couldn't care less) would not be embellished, or made more readable, or improved in accuracy, by having the Wade-Giles spellings added.

JAMES M. ANDREWS

CONCURRENCE SHEET

Proposed change to "Transliteration of Foreign Languages" submitted by AD/RE, 10 March 1950, with change recommended by AD/CD, 10 March 1950.

50X1

AD/RE	_____	DATE	_____
AD/OO	<u>121 per to Casey</u>	Concur, subject to note below	DATE <u>16 Mar 50</u>
AD/SI	_____	DATE	_____

3,000 memo 10 March

AD/OO: Provided that the following sentence be added to the draft paragraph: "FBID and Contact Division, OO, will conform to this procedure insofar as their sources and operations permit."